

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier listings and all earlier versions.

1. (currently amended) A positioning system for dental x-ray examinations, comprising:
 - an electronic image sensor ~~to be positioned by a dental practitioner;~~
 - a sheath covering the electronic image sensor; and
 - a holder removably bonded to the sheath by a pressure sensitive adhesive upon application of the holder to the sheath ~~by the dental practitioner~~ just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic sensor;wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be ~~applied to and removed from~~ adjustably positioned on the sheath ~~by a dental practitioner in a manner that provides optimal coverage of a patient's dental anatomy by the electronic image sensor.~~
2. (previously presented) The positioning system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the electronic image sensor comprises a charge-coupled device.
3. (previously presented) The positioning system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the electronic image sensor comprises a CMOS active pixel sensor array.

4. (previously presented) The positioning system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the holder is bonded to the sheath at any point along a surface of the electronic image sensor.

5. (previously presented) The positioning system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the sheath is a material selected from the group consisting of paper, cotton, sponge, rubber, plastic, latex, and nylon.

6. (previously presented) The positioning system as set forth in Claim 1, wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of tape, epoxy, hot melt, and sealant.

7. (currently amended) A method for ~~enabling a dental practitioner to~~ positioning an electronic dental image sensor, comprising the steps of:

~~the dental practitioner~~ placing the electronic sensor in a sheath;

~~the dental practitioner~~ affixing a holder having a pressure sensitive adhesive coating to the sheath to create a removable bond between the holder and the sheath just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic sensor;

~~the dental practitioner~~ positioning the holder and the electronic sensor within the mouth of a patient;

capturing at least one dental image; and

~~the dental practitioner~~ removing the holder from the sheath
following the capture of the at least one dental image,
wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be
adjustably positioned on the sheath in a manner that provides optimal coverage of the
patient's dental anatomy by the electronic sensor.

8. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein
the holder is bonded to the sheath at any point along a surface of the electronic image
sensor.

9. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein
the sheath is a material selected from the group consisting of paper, cotton, sponge, rubber,
plastic, latex, and nylon.

10. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 7, wherein
the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of tape, epoxy, hot melt, and sealant.

11. (currently amended) A positioning system for dental x-ray
examinations, comprising:
an electronic image sensor ~~to be positioned by a dental practitioner;~~
and

a holder removably bonded to the electronic image sensor by a pressure sensitive adhesive coating upon a application of the holder to the electronic image sensor ~~by the dental practitioner~~ just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic sensor,

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive coating enables the holder to be ~~applied to and removed from~~ adjustably positioned on the electronic image sensor ~~by a dental practitioner~~ in a manner that provides optimal coverage of a patient's dental anatomy by the electronic image sensor.

12-13. (cancelled)

14. (previously presented) The dental positioning system as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the electronic image sensor comprises a CMOS active pixel sensor array.

15. (previously presented) The dental positioning system as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the electronic image sensor comprises a charge-coupled device.

16. (cancelled)

17. (previously presented) The dental positioning system as set forth in Claim 11, wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of tape, epoxy, hot melt, and sealant.

18. (currently amended) A method for enabling a dental practitioner to position an electronic dental image sensor, comprising steps of:

~~the dental practitioner~~ affixing a holder having a pressure sensitive adhesive coating to the electronic image sensor to create a removable bond between the holder and the electronic image sensor just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic image sensor;

~~the dental practitioner~~ positioning the holder and the electronic image sensor within the mouth of a patient;

capturing at least one dental image; and

~~the dental practitioner~~ removing the holder from the electronic image sensor following the capture of at least one dental image,

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be positioned on the electronic image sensor in a manner that provides optimal coverage of the patient's dental anatomy by the electronic sensor.

19. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the electronic image sensor comprises a CMOS active pixel sensor array.

20. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the electronic image sensor comprises a charge-coupled device.

21. (previously presented) The method as set forth in Claim 18, wherein the adhesive is selected from the group consisting of tape, epoxy, hot melt, and sealant.

22. (new) A positioning system for dental x-ray examinations, comprising:
an electronic image sensor;
a sheath covering the electronic image sensor; and
a holder removably bonded to the sheath by a pressure sensitive adhesive upon application of the holder to the sheath just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic sensor;
wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be adjustably positioned on the sheath in a manner that optimizes a patient's comfort when the electronic image sensor is placed in the patient's mouth.

23. (new) A method for enabling a dental practitioner to position an electronic dental image sensor, comprising the steps of:
placing the electronic sensor in a sheath;

affixing a holder having a pressure sensitive adhesive coating to the sheath to create a removable bond between the holder and the sheath just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic sensor;

positioning the holder and the electronic sensor within the mouth of a patient;

capturing at least one dental image; and

removing the holder from the sheath following the capture of the at least one dental image;

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be adjustably positioned on the sheath in a manner that optimizes the patient's comfort when the electronic sensor is placed in the patient's mouth.

24. (new) A positioning system for dental x-ray examinations, comprising:

an electronic image sensor; and

a holder removably bonded to the electronic image sensor by a pressure sensitive adhesive coating upon a application of the holder to the electronic image sensor just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic sensor,

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive coating enables the holder to be adjustably positioned on the electronic image sensor in a manner that optimizes a electronic sensor is placed in the patient's mouth.

25. (new) A method for enabling a dental practitioner to position an electronic dental image sensor, comprising steps of:

affixing a holder having a pressure sensitive adhesive coating to the electronic image sensor to create a removable bond between the holder and the electronic image sensor just prior to positioning the holder and the electronic image sensor;

positioning the holder and the electronic image sensor within the mouth of a patient;

capturing at least one dental image; and

removing the holder from the electronic image sensor following the capture of at least one dental image,

wherein the pressure sensitive adhesive enables the holder to be adjustably positioned on the electronic image sensor in a manner that optimizes the patient's comfort when the electronic sensor is placed in the patient's mouth.